

Regional Interagency Coordinating Committee
Minutes from 05-13-08

1. Welcome/Introductions

Carlotta McCleary, Becky Severt, Dorothy Larson, Rebecca Helm, Shonda Wild, Carol Olson, Lorri Sandal, Lori Bergquist, Theresa Kuhn, Sandy McMerty, Roxane Romanick, Connie Schwartz, Michelle Hougen, Richard Rask, Vicki Peterson, Jody Bettger-Huber, Angela Glaser, Cherie Mortenson, Lelord Benz

2. Minutes from 2-12-08 were approved

3. Member Updates

- Vicki Peterson - The ND Autism Connection Walk is scheduled for June 14th at Horizon Middle School. Vicki also shared her news about her son being accepted for a research project through Kennedy Krieger Institute.
- Cherie Mortenson - Cherie reported on the "Literacy" event that was hosted by West River and Prairie Public TV on May 3rd - had over 400 people attend
- Shonda Wild:
 - Shonda shared that there is a child care center in Minot that is closing down which is causing a shortage in the area.
 - She discussed exploring screening tools that child care providers could easily use. Michelle suggested looking at early learning guidelines that is targeted for all populations, birth to 5.
- Carol Olson:
 - They are starting their family mentoring program again in the fall. The family mentoring program consists of a group of students (OT, PT, nursing, social work, and education) that spend 6-8 hours with a family. The family mentors the student. They tell them some of the things they deal with. If interested the contact person is Mary Rennich.
- Lorri Sandal:
 - They just hired a new staff person. They have a total of 15 case managers right now.
 - They are getting ready for the next fiscal year with re-writing family support and family subsidy contracts.

- Lori Bergquist:
 - Lactation Counselor Certificate Program "CLC" will be available in Bismarck September 15-19. The website is www.healthychildren.cc. The cost is \$500-\$600. It will be held Monday-Friday from 8:00-5:00.
 - They have a new social worker starting in the NICU and peds.
- Sandy McMerty:
 - The Buddy Walk will be held September 27th. It will be their 5th year.
- Roxane Romanick:
 - Thursday is MPS awareness day. There's a video on You Tube about MPS1. They are trying to get 1,000 hits to be You Tube's star of the week.
 - Family Voices put out booklet with information about Early Intervention services.
 - Kirsten McIntyre had a baby girl 2 weeks ago.
 - Karen Gaffney spoke at the Pathfinders Conference in Minot. Karen is a young woman with Down syndrome who swam the width of Lake Tahoe (9½ miles) on September 25th. She swam it in 6½ hours. She also swam with a relay team across the English Channel. Karen is very articulate. The title of her speech was "Throwing Out Old Data". You cannot depend on old data in regard to people with disabilities anymore. Look at what people are doing and achieving. She also spoke about her roots in Early Intervention. Her beginnings started because her parents put the time and effort early on in her life. She is in her early 30s. She has her own foundation, Karen Gaffney Foundation, raising money for Down syndrome research.
 - There is no Family Connections Conference this year.
- Carlotta McCleary:
 - Mental Health Campaign: They have some awareness commercials out right now. They are going state wide with bringing awareness. Calls are going to 211 and they are referring families of where to be screened. 1 in 5 people have a mental health problem, 1 in 10 children have a serious emotional disturbance. Carlotta noted that research shows that the longer you delay treatment the worst the condition can get.

Kids are getting identified late elementary/middle school/high school level. There is a fear of giving kids "mental health" label. Mayors in Devils Lake, Fargo, Grand Forks and Bismarck have declared Mental Health Week. The goal is to erase stigma around mental health. Mental health means how we think, feel, and act. There is concern around lack of access, treatment and care. Federal government has released a notice about a no match grant called Project Launch. The Department of Health's Maternal and child health division would need to apply for it. It looks like it would really look at early childhood focus. Sandy suggested the committee send a letter and information for grant. Deadline is July. Carlotta will get information to Roxane. Roxane suggested it would be good to get basic testimony in regards to what we're not able to do. We're not able to intervene in regard to childcare. Carol has possible group of students interested in research. If there is anything along these lines the students could do (looking at data).

- The Clinical Forum on Mental Health is starting tomorrow. There is an excellent speaker on Wednesday speaking on infant development issues and drug exposed issues. There's also a speaker on ADA restoration at the Seven Seas.
- Dorothy Larson:
 - Found out that there has to be an agreement signed with Tribes and Minot for Tribes to get hearing information for kids. Jody belongs to EHDI committee (early detection). Last year they developed a process where they connect with the hospitals. Dorothy noted that there is a gap for the tribal programs. Right Track is notified of all children that have missed or failed their hearing screening. They then will initiate a phone call and letter. They have had a harder time in rural areas. They don't get notifications in a very timely manner (until baby is 4-6 months old then baby is too old to get rescreened). The hearing information comes from Minot. Roxane said the reason Tribal doesn't get information from Minot is because they don't have a Memorandum of Understanding with Minot. Roxane asked what parents know about this. Lori said they are given a pamphlet. If they failed then they get a separate pamphlet and inform them they would like to recheck at such and such a date.

Roxane asked if they know Right Track is getting information. Jody said the state generates the letter informing them that Right Track has the information. Connie asked what is percentage of kids who need rescreen. Jody said it varies, sometimes a couple, sometimes a dozen. Roxane is it policy for them to come back 2 or 4 weeks, why the 2-4 week timeline? Lori said they can only come back up to a month because the equipment they have only works to a certain age. They do 2 weeks because it coincides with their doctor visit. Roxane asked which Early Intervention staff will do OAEs? Michelle said speech pathologists are only staff trained to do them.

4. Membership Updates
5. Healthy Families and Early Childhood Mental Health Work Group Activities - Jody Bettger-Huber
 - Jody Bettger-Huber is resigning from the Right Track program. She started with Right Track seven years ago. Jody has accepted a position coordinating and developing the Healthy Families program through Lutheran Social Services. Shonda was told there would be four part-time consultants for the program and they would each do 15 visits a week. Healthy Families is a national program. Barb Kramer is the Director. Services are initiated prenatally or at birth. Some of the referral sources will be physicians, Teen Challenge, Youthworks, Early Intervention, Right Track. The program was generated with the child abuse and neglect prevention money. The program's philosophy is to identify higher risk families and to give them family support, information and guidance. Healthy Families is a free program. They will do weekly visits to home. There will be a plan and goals set up for the family. They would like families to agree to weekly visits at least that first year. The program will look at attachment issues with mom and baby. They will do screenings which may result in referrals to Early Intervention. They will follow the children until age of 3, then transition into most likely Head Start. Jody's role will be assessing all families through eligibility. She will go to Chicago for a week for training. There are three curriculums that are being used now. This program is only in Burleigh and Morton counties. Lori asked how long grant is. Connie thought it was through July 2010. Jody will remain on the RICC.

6. Program Reports:

- BECEP Right Track
 - Eligibility for BECEP has been at about 70% eligibility for children that were identified ~~ing~~ children and referred through Right Track ~~ing them (70%).~~ Correction made at the 9-9-08 meeting In comparison, the last couple of years it has been fluctuating (60%). They had a late start trying to get visits done. They are still a little behind in completing visits. Connie asked how early are visits done. Jody said they are trying for 6-8 weeks, but lately it's been 3 months.
- Standing Rock Early Intervention
 - Presently they have 19 active IFSPs, they have 3 who are waiting for IFSP meetings to be set up, 8 that are in the evaluation process right now, 7 who are waiting for intakes to be completed. They have begun having weekly conference calls with case managers to discuss status of referrals and initial IFSP development. They discovered that the hardest part is getting the intake completed with the 45 day timeframe. They are targeting how to get DD case managers in the door sooner. They are trying to send tracking staff along with case manager so parents aren't so fearful.
 - Rebecca is doing a parenting class every Tuesday. Roxane asked if she is following a curriculum. Rebecca said no because every week there's a new parent starting. Roxane asked what the percentage of families coming in are on Medicaid. Rebecca said almost all of them. Roxane said those families could be automatically screened through EPSDT which includes lead screenings. Rebecca and Dorothy will check with Custer Health.
 - Dorothy said they are also trying to address mental issues at a younger age, mainly anger issues and attachment issues.
- BECEP Early Intervention
 - A couple of weeks ago there were materials that were divided out to Infant Development programs in all regions.

There were a lot of adaptive equipment, assessment tools, and textbooks.

- One big issue with the state right now is looking at credentials of Early Intervention staff in terms of who can do an evaluation and who can do consultants. It goes back to state plan and Part C. In order to do Part C evaluation you have to have a teaching degree and early childhood credential. Other staff can do other areas in terms of home visits and writing IFSP. The way that it's affecting Infant Development programs is that's not the way we have necessary hired. They are looking at transcripts to see if they have coursework in early childhood then they are able to do evaluation and consultation.
- There is a position open in Early Intervention looking for Early Childhood Special Education credentialed person to help with the gap.

7. Old Business: Follow-up on Developmental Screenings and Child Care Licensing; Follow-up on NICU referrals to Standing Rock program; Report on status of new brochure

- NICU referrals to Standing Rock program: Lori talked to Tammy Johnson before she left and she will talk to the new person to make sure referrals are going through Lorri.
- Status of new brochure: Sandy McMerty has the brochure to review. We have a timeline of getting it completed by early June because the money is in the budget and the budget ends in June.

8. Program Compliance Reports

- Twice a year the case files of BECEP and Standing Rock are reviewed. The State and local staff will review some of the cases jointly and just state staff will review some. They are looking for Parent Prior Notices to be completed, school district notified in a timely manner of child turning 3, etc. Last time cases were reviewed was in October (July-September 2007). They looked at 11 cases, 10 of 11 had considerations of noncompliance. Three of the cases were not entered in computer system (if not in computer it doesn't exist). All of cases were from BECEP at time of review. Some examples of a

noncompliance are hearing/vision not completed at time of assessment, transition goals not complete, preliteracy was not included in outcomes or strategy. So if vision was missed for example, then we will have to go back and talk to family and document the correction in a periodic review. All of these issues have to be completed by June 30, 2008. In some cases families don't know that they are ones being pulled. There are also systemic reviews being missed. Timely reviews need to be done when child transfers from region to region in state. Timely is 30 days from time parent requests services. Other areas missed were review dates. We'll have to work with DD Case Management in aligning our dates with their dates. Other systemic issues had 3 cases not entered in computer. The big issue will be trying to get information into ASSIST and Lotus Notes. Annual and initial screenings continue to be an issue. There will be training with staff on May 20th.

9. Regional Quality Improvement Plan Updates
 - Won't do anything with Quality Improvement Plan right now because we are hoping for new data.
10. Elections and Review of Operational Guidelines due in August meeting
 - Hopefully we will have our regional data by our August meeting. We will do elections and review operational guidelines and look at membership.
11. Adjourn
 - Meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.